27 - ANALYSIS OF THE THEMATIC AND THEORETICAL-METHODOLOGICAL TRENDS IN THE SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTION ON HANDBALL FROM THE 90S ON.

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Introduction

The present study aims to analyze the thematic and theoretical-methodological trends in the literature on handball, taking into account the researches carried out between 1990 and 2002. The corpus of the study was constituted by dissertations and theses submitted in Brazilian *stricto sensu* graduate programs.

This study constitutes a preliminary stage of exploratory studies to subside the development of researches by the Group of Pedagogical Researches on Physical Education (GPPEF) at the *Stricto Sensu* Graduate Program on Physical Education at Gama Filho University. The analytical readings of available works related to the subject provide a deepening on the knowledge of pedagogical nature and strive to support the research lines.

Within this perspective, the objective of this paper was to perform a theoretical-methodological mapping of specific academic production on handball, which was achieved by means of an Analytical Matrix of Academic Production on Physical Education, built and validated for this purpose (RESENDE et al, 2004).

Study Methodology

The thematic and theoretical-methodological mapping of the academic production on handball published in Brazil from the 90s on in the form of theses and dissertations is characterized as a survey research on the knowledge production on a study field (Selltiz, Wrightsman, Cook, 1987).

The chosen period of time (1990 to 2002) is considered a satisfactory interval of time regarding the contemporariness of the knowledge produced on handball.

In order to access the analyzed texts two data bases were used: (a) Brazilian Nucleus of Dissertations and Theses on Physical Education and Special Education (NUTESES), managed by the Federal University of Uberlândia, and (b) CAPES Journal Website.

On both sites it was possible to find the abstracts of the theses and dissertations. In most cases it was possible to identify the central ideas of the studies and to classify them according to the Analytical Matrix. It's worth pointing out that some abstracts did not fulfill our expectations regarding the presentation of the research methodology because they omitted information such as: data source, data collection and data analysis techniques. This fact prevented the clear identification of all the indexes related to the mapping of the academic production on handball.

The corpus of the study was constituted of eighteen texts (the total number of published dissertations and theses) related to handball between 1990 and 2002.

Theoretical-methodological mapping of the academic production on handball presentation and data analysis

The results of the study were presented and analyzed based on the Analytical Matrix of Academic Production on Physical Education (RESENDE et al, 2004).

The first set of items corresponds to the identification categories (the authors' educational background, their regional distribution and institutional linking). The second set of items refers to the categories of theoretical nature (objective, thematic sub-area and meaning of the study), and the third set of items approaches aspects of methodological nature (data source, collection and data analysis techniques.

- *Description of the data related to the identification categories*

Based on the Analytical Matrix, the first aspect investigated was the authors' educational background. The classification was done according to the degree obtained by the author as a result of the works analyzed in this study.

TABLE 1: **AUTHORS' EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND**

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND	n	%
Master Degree	17	94.5
Doctor Degree	1	5.5
TOTAL	**18**	**100**

The fact that only one doctor's dissertation on handball has been carried out in Brazil in thirteen years is outstanding. The number of master's these is also reduced if we take into account the number of studies carried out on other Physical Education fields in the same period of time.

TABLE 2: **AUTHORS' REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION**

REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION	n	%
Southeast	13	72.3
South	3	16.7
North	1	5.5
Center-west	1	5.5
TOTAL	**18**	**100**

The authors' regional distribution, presented in table 2 reveals a significant concentration of the production on the southeast axis (72.3%). The south region includes 16.7% of the total. The absence of works on handball in the northeast region and the reduced number of works on handball in the north region (5.5%) and center-west regions (5.5%) are remarkable facts.

TABLE 3: **AUTHORS' DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION**

INSTITUTION	n	%
UNICAMP	5	27.8
UFRJ	3	16.7
UFSM	3	16.7
USP	3	16.7
UGF	2	11.1
UCB-DF	1	5.5
Instituto Nacional de Pesquisa da Amazônia	1	5.5
TOTAL	**18**	**100**

Table 3 shows that the authors linked to UNICAMP lead in works related to handball (27.8%), closely followed by the UFSM (16.7%), UFRJ (16.7%) and USP (16.7%).

This table includes four institutions in the southeast region (two in São Paulo UNICAMP and USP and two in Rio de Janeiro UFRJ and UGF), only one institution in the south (UFSM), one in the north (Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia) and one in the center-west (UCB-DF).

- *Description of the data referring to the categories of theoretical nature*

One of the objectives of this section was to identify the thematic sub-areas that embrace the studies related to handball. According to each field, this relation may be close or loose. Also, not all the works are on Physical Education. We have found two dissertations in the field of nutrition and one in the field of medicine.

TABLE 4: **THEMATIC SUB-AREAS APPROACHED BY THE PUBLICATIONS ON HANDBALL**

THEMATIC SUB-AREAS	n	%
Social-cultural analysis	4	22.3
Physiology	3	16.7
Teaching methodology	3	16.7
Psychological analysis	2	11.1
Motor learning	2	11.1
Nutrition	2	11.1
Historical approach	1	5.5
Vocational training	1	5.5
Orthopedics	1	5.5
TOTAL	**191**	

Besides its main objective, this research also aimed at confirming whether handball is being academically dealt with as a central or a secondary object of research. We consider that handball is treated as the central object of research when the authors focus their studies on issues related to the teaching-learning aspects or the history of this sport. Whenever handball is used as a "backdrop" to approach other similar subject matters, it is classified as secondary object of research.

We found out that 77.8% of the analyzed studies grant a secondary role to handball in the researches (studies related to physiology, psychological and social-cultural analysis, and nutrition of handball athletes). Only in 22.2% of the master's and doctor's researches carried out in Brazil between 1990 and 2002, handball is dealt with as the central focus of the study.

Another analyzed category refers to the meaning of the study (Table 5).

TABLE 5: **MEANING OF THE STUDY**

MEANING OF THE STUDY	n	%
Diagnostic	13	72.3
Foundation	2	11.1
Proposal	2	11.1
Denouncement	1	5.5
TOTAL	**18**	**100**

The Table 5 indicates that the vast majority of the works are of the diagnostic type (72.3%). We know that all kinds of study go through an essentially diagnostic stage. According to this survey, we can notice that most of the researches do not go further to other levels and limit their studies to the description of the characteristics of a field of knowledge. Concerning this point, the papers on morph-physiological, nutritional, psychological, social-cultural and motor-learning analysis stand out.

Few studies have an argumentative nature, a fundament-description (11.1%) or a proposal (11.1%). The foundation studies approach issues on history and on handball teaching methodology. The proposal studies focus on subjects such as vocational training and handball teaching methodology.

The study of denouncement kind presents indexes even lower (5.5%) and analyses pedagogical practices in handball teaching.

- *Description of the data referent to the categories of methodological nature*

TABLE 6: **DATA SOURCE**

DATA SOURCE	n	%
Individuals	13	72.3
Literature	1	5.5
Video tapes	1	5.5
Unidentified	3	16.7
TOTAL	**18**	**100**

Table 6 indicates that consultation to people represents the main data source of the analyzed studies. Nearly 62% individuals among this sample chosen for the researches are young and adult handball athletes.

On the papers whose data sources appear as unidentified (16.7%), we have assumed, according to the abstracts, that the sources are also made up by individuals. However, as we are facing obscure or implicit information, we have preferred to adopt the indicator 'unidentified'.

TABLE 7: **DATA COLLECTION TECHNIQUE**

DATA COLLECTION TECHNIQUE	n	%
Inquires	9	50
Testing	7	38.9
Observation	2	11.1
Documental survey	1	5.5
Unidentified	4	22.3
TOTAL	**231**	

It is clear in Table 7 that inquires (questionnaires, interviews) are prevalent as the data collection technique (50%), which, in some papers, appear accompanied by the testing (38.9%). The techniques of observation (11.1%) and documental survey (5.5%) were used in a few researches.

It is outstanding the fact that a representative number of abstracts (22.3%) omit this information, considering that the data collection technique of a research is a central piece of information for the delineation and the description of its methodology.

The last analyzed category refers to the data analysis techniques that are presented in Table 8.

TABLE 8: **DATA ANALYSIS TECHNI QUES**

DATA ANALYSIS TECHNIQUES	n	%
Descriptive	8	44.5
Experimental	6	33.3
Documental analysis	1	5.5
Unidentified	3	16.7
TOTAL	**18**	**100**

We observe, according to Table 8, that most of the studies have used the description as the data analysis technique (44.5%), which is typical of qualitative approach researches. The experimental analysis, usually employed on empirical-analytical researches, was used in 33.3% of the papers. Only one study (5.5%) has resorted for the documental analysis.

In three studies (16.7%), the abstracts did not provide information on whether the authors applied a scientific treatment to the data analysis.

• Final Considerations

The present study has enabled us to map, describe, interpret and comment on the main relevant traces of master's and doctor's researches on handball in the Brazilian educational institutions as of the last decade.

The vast majority of the studies results from master's thesis, most of them linked to institutions located in the southeast region.

We must point out that this research has come across some deficient abstracts found in the CAPES and NUTESES Journal sites. This fact makes us believe that they refer to papers that were not strictly academically elaborated, having applied poorly delineated methodologies and unsystematically collected and analyzed data.

From this research it is possible to assert that the academic production on handball is still incipient. Moreover, on most of the analyzed papers, handball appears as a secondary focus of study. Considering the picture presented, we can conclude that few studies focused specifically on handball have been carried out in the late years, especially the studies regarding the teaching-learning issues of the modality. .

This study may be used as a point of reference for new investigations. It can also be taken as a basic source to consider the gaps identified in the academic production on handball in Brazil.

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Analysis of the Thematic and Theoretical-methodological Trends in the Scientific Production on Handball from the 90s on.

ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to characterize the thematic and theoretical-methodological trends in the publications on handball, spread by dissertations and theses submitted in Brazilian *stricto sensu* graduate programs. A documental analysis of eighteen studies carried out between 1990 and 2002 was done. The documental analysis was performed based on the Analytical Matrix of Academic Production on Physical Education (RESENDE et al, 2004). The results have revealed a low number of researches on handball that resulted from a mature academic production.

Key words: Handball, Academic Production, Theoretical-methodological analysis.

Analyse des Tendances Thématiques et Théorico-Méthodologiques de la Production Scientifique sur le Hand-Ball à Partir de la Décade de 90

RESUME

L'objectif de cette étude c'est de caracteriser les tendances thématiques et théorico-méthodologiques des publications sur le hand-ball, véhiculées par des dissertations et thèses soutenues aux programmes de postgraduation *stricto sensu* au Brésil. On a élaboré une analyse documentaire de dixhuit éstudes faites entre 1990 et 2002. L'analyse documentaire a été executée à partir de la Matrice Analytique de la Production Académique en Éducation Physique (RESENDE et al, 2004). Les résultats montrent un manque de recherches sur le Hand-ball qui soient provenantes d'une production académique mûre.

Mots-clés: Hand-ball, Production académique, Analyse théorico-méthodologique.

Análisis de las Tendencias Temáticas y Teórico-Metodológicas de la Producción Científica sobre el Balonmano a Partir de la Década de 90

RESUMEN

El objetivo de esta investigación es caracterizar las tendencias temáticas y teórico-metodológicas de las publicaciones sobre el balonmano, transmitidas a través de disertaciones de maestría y tesis de doctorado defendidas en programas de posgrado *stricto sensu*. Fue elaborado un análisis documental de dieciocho trabajos hechos entre 1990 y 2002. El análisis documental fue elaborado a partir de una Matrice Analítica de la Producción Académica en Educación Física (RESENDE et al, 2004). Los resultados revelaron escasez de investigaciones hechas sobre el balonmano que provengan de una producción académica madura

Palabras-llave: Balonmano; Producción Académica; Análisis Teórico-Metodológico.